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Refer

410506

The Problem: The private, for profit, commercial fishing fleet of Wisconsin only covers a portion of the costs needed to manage that same fleet. Per the Legislative Fiscal Bureau report of April 26, 2005, Finance Paper #517, for the year 2003-2004 this resulted in a shortfall of \$461,000. Also from this report...

"To the extent that it costs DNR more to oversee and manage the commercial fishery on the Great Lakes than the Department generates in revenue, other fish and wildlife license holders subsidize the commercial fishing program."

This shortfall situation has been occurring as far back as 1991, even though the estimated average value of fish taken in the last 34 years have been, per USGS, about \$4.7 million per year, and the current number of commercial fishers is just 68. And since no competitive bidding has ever taken place for this valuable public resource...

BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in **Milwaukee County** on **April 10, 2004**, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct the situation by introducing rule changes, preventing the use of public funds generated by sportsmen of this state to be used to cover the shortfall of funds needed to support the private, for profit business, commercial fishing fleet in Wisconsin, and that any monies owed, be returned to the fish and wildlife account of the conservation fund or any other fund deriving their funds from the sale of fishing/hunting licenses and / or stamps.

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Signature: Steven Alt

For Office Use Only:

County Milwaukee

Passed or ~~Failed~~

County Resolution Number: 410506

~~County Vote: (by show of hands or written ballot where appropriate)~~

YES 0 NO 8